

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A dishwasher comprising:

a washing chamber having a door movable from an open position permitting the loading of the washing chamber, through a close position visually covering the washing chamber, to a seal position sealing water within the washing chamber by the compression of a gasket;

a timer/controller generating an electric signal ~~elosing~~ indicating a time for sealing the door for washing;

and an electric actuator responding to the electric signal to move the door from the close position to the seal position to compress the gasket through a force applied to the door by the electric actuator; wherein the electric actuator connects to the door through a releasable latch allowing the electric actuator to be engaged and disengaged from the door;

at least one switch providing a signal confirming engagement of the electric actuator and door, the switch communicating with the timer controller to prevent washing prior to the occurrence of this confirming signal;

and a force sensor sensing a pre-determined force on the electric actuator resisting closure of the door by the electric actuator caused by an obstruction between the door and the washing chamber to controllably stop closure of the door before the seal position.

2. (original) The dishwasher of claim 1 wherein the close position provides a space between the washing chamber and the door allowing venting of the washing chamber.

3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) The dishwasher of ~~claim 3~~ claim 1 wherein the latch

includes a manual operator releasing a connection to the electronic actuator holding the door in the seal position.

5. (original) The dishwasher of claim 3 wherein the latch includes a switch signaling that the latch has released the door.

6. (original) The dishwasher of claim 1 including a detent providing a force releasably holding the door at the close position.

7. (original) The dishwasher of claim 1 including a sensor sensing the door in the close position to allow the electric actuator to move the door from the close position to the seal position.

8. (original) The dishwasher of claim 1 wherein the electric actuator is mounted in the door to releasably engage structure of the washing chamber to move the door between the close position and the seal position.

9. (original) The dishwasher of claim 1 wherein the electric actuator is mounted on the washing chamber to releasably engage structure of the door to move the door between the close position and the seal position.

10. (original) The dishwasher of claim 1 including a sensor sensing an opening force on the door to cause the electric actuator to move the door from the seal position toward the open position.

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A latch for a dishwasher having a washing chamber with a door movable between an open position to permit the loading of the washing chamber and a seal position to seal water within the washing chamber, wherein the latch comprises:

interacting door and washing chamber positioned latch portions retaining the door at a vent position between the open and close positions allowing venting of the washing

chamber around the door or retaining the door at a seal position to seal water within the washing chamber; and

a switch providing a signal confirming engagement of the latch portions;

an electric motor actuator responding to an electric closure signal instructing sealing of the door to move the door latch from the vent to the seal positions;

a dishwasher controller allowing initiation of a wash cycle only after generation of the closure signal and receipt of the signal from the switch.

~~including a sensor sensing a force resisting closure of the door by the electric actuator to cause the electric actuator to move the door from the seal position to the close position.~~

13. (original) The latch of claim 12 including a manual operator allowing manual release of the interacting door and tub positioned latch portions when the door is in the seal position.

14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) The latch of claim 12 wherein the interacting door and tub positioned latch portions provide a detent releasably holding the door at the vent position.

16. (cancelled)

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) The latch of claim 12 ~~wherein the sensor senses~~ further including a sensor sensing a force resisting closure of the door by the electric actuator to produce an electrical signal to cause the electric actuator to move the door from the seal position toward the open position.

19. (previously presented) The latch of claim 12 including force limiter, limiting a force of closure of the door between the vent position and the seal position.

20. (currently amended) A dishwasher comprising:

a washing chamber having a door movable from an open position permitting the loading of the washing chamber to a seal position sealing water within the washing chamber;

a timer/controller controlling the washing of dishes within the washing chamber and providing a washing first signal during a washing period and a separate drying signal during a drying period different from the washing period during which the dishes dry after washing; and

an electric door actuator communicating with the timer/controller to respond to a the first signal from the timer/controller to automatically close the door at the washing period to seal water within the washing chamber and to automatically open the door for venting of water vapor from within the washing chamber during the drying period in response to the drying signal.

21. (original) The dishwasher of claim 20 further providing a user control permitting opening of the door during the washing period.

22. (canceled)

23. (previously presented) The dishwasher of claim 21 further including a mechanical latch releasing a connection by the electric actuator holding the door in the seal position.

24. (original) The dishwasher of claim 21 further including a sensor providing a signal indicating that the door is closed after opening of the door during the washing cycle, and wherein the timer/controller communicates with the electric actuator to delay sealing of the door to prevent surge pressure build up from heating of the newly introduced cold air.

25. (original) The dishwasher of claim 21 further including a door closed sensor providing a signal indicating that the door is in the close position.

26. (new) The dishwasher of claim 1 including a force sensor sensing a force resisting closure of the door to cause the electric actuator to move the door from the seal position toward the open position.

27. (new) The dishwasher of claim 21 wherein the user control is a force sensor sensing an opening force applied to the door and communicating with the electric actuator to cause an opening of the door.